

2019 MUSKEGON SHODOWN TOURNAMENT RULES

FEES:

Paid by June 10th, 2019

Pro division: \$550

Amateur division: \$300

After June 10th, 2019 fees will go to \$600 for pro and \$350 for AM

FISHING HOURS:

6:00a-2:00p with a minimum of 4 hours fished. All boats must be between the pier heads by 2:01p or the team will be disqualified for the day.

IMPORTANT!!!

If you elect to fish this tournament, you agree by your participation that you have read, understand and accept all rules & regulations pertaining to this event, and to abide by the decisions of the Tournament Committee. Failure to be familiar with rules may result in disqualification. All rules are subject to change and will be finalized at each tournaments captains' meeting.

ELIGIBILITY:

The Tournament Committee reserves the right to decline entry or participation by any person, team or boat, as deemed necessary, to ensure such things as integrity, image, reputation, financial performance and community relationships with sponsors, participants and supporting groups.

CAPTAINS' MEETING:

Amendments or changes to rules may be done at Captains' Meeting prior to each tournament. For these reasons we would suggest entire team attend. Captains' meeting will be held at Great Lakes Marina. Rules will be finalized at the Captains' meeting.

FINAL PAYOUTS –

Final Payouts will be posted after the Captains' meeting, based upon number of teams registered, and posting will supersede **ALL** previously posted payout projections. Once final payouts are posted, there can be no refunds of registration fees.

BAD WEATHER –

In case of bad weather, 4 hours of fishing constitutes a completed tournament. If we cannot start fishing on the 1st day of a 2-day tournament by 11:00a.m. due to weather conditions, tournament will be canceled for the day, and fishing will not be allowed for tournament boats for the rest of the day. On day two, if we start at 11:00a.m., fishing will end at 3:00p.m. After fishing minimum of 4 hours the 1st day of any 2-day event, no fishing will be allowed for the remainder of that day. The Muskegon buoy along with both pro and am weather boats will be used to determine wave conditions. If the buoy is reporting waves 3.0 ft or higher the tournament may be canceled or delayed. It is your responsibility to monitor Channel 78 for safety and emergency tournament information. If tournament is called off before a minimum of 4 hours is fished, the whole day will be canceled, and no fish will be weighed. If, due to unforeseen circumstances, any tournament is canceled in its entirety, a refund check will be mailed within 14 days. However, a portion of the registration fee may be retained to cover administrative costs. A weather boat committee will be selected and announced at the Pro/Am Captains' meeting. This committee, in conjunction with Tournament Control, will make all weather-based decisions once the fishing period has commenced. If the tournament must be called early due to poor weather conditions, **ALL** events and divisions will be canceled for the day. All boats will be notified on Channel 78 and be asked to switch to Channel 78 for a weather-related announcement. Tournament Control will inform all boats of the new deadline to return to the harbor. The deadline will be 1.5 hours from the time of the announcement. For example, if Tournament Control announces that the tournament will be called due to bad weather at 10:00 am, all boats must return to the harbor by 11:30 am. Fishing **will be** permitted during that hour and a half, as long as the boat returns to the pier heads by 11:30 am.

2019 MUSKEGON SHODOWN TOURNAMENT RULES

LATE BOATS –

All boats that are late in returning to the pier heads will be disqualified for the day. No exceptions!

NUMBER OF RODS –

Maximum number of lines fishing is 9. Fishing means “in the water.” 10 or more lines in the water at any one time disqualify the team. One slider per rod will be allowed, however, sliders may not exceed 72 inches. Maximum 2 baits per rod.

RADIO –

Marine radio required. Monitor Channel 78 for tournament traffic alert, Tournament Control will monitor Channel 78 throughout the day in case of an emergency or situation that requires immediate attention.

MICHIGAN LAWS –

All State of Michigan fishing laws must be observed. A written DNR violation on tournament days disqualifies team with no refund.

LIMITS & SCORING –

Pro division will be catch 12 weigh 10 **NO more than 9 Lake Trout**. AM division will be catch 12 weigh 6. Points will be as follows 10 points per fish and 1 point per pound.

GAFFING FISH –

Gaffing fish is not allowed. Foreign substances, including ice packed into the fish’s mouth or body cavities, will disqualify the entire team.

WEIGH-IN –

Weigh-ins will be done as boats arrive. Boats without observers must proceed immediately to weigh-in. Boats with mandatory observers may transport their coolers from their dock to the weigh stations. Transported coolers must be at weigh station no later than 1 hr. after tournament ends each day. Observer and at least one team member must stay with the cooler at all times until their fish are weighed. At Captains’ Meeting final weigh-in procedures will be announced for both divisions’. Please drain coolers before weigh-in. Excess water or loose ice may result in 5 lb. deduction from overall weight. Once the weigh in slip is signed the weight listed will be the final weight of the day. **It is your job to know your weights!**

CAPTAIN & CREW –

A Captain for each team must be designated and identified on registration form. Short-handed crews are allowed; however, sufficient legal fishermen are required to comply with maximum 9 lines. Same fishermen do not have to fish both days. **DNR REGULATIONS ALLOW 3 RODS PER PERSON ON LAKE MICHIGAN RESULTING IN A 3 MAN CREW TO LEGALLY USE THE MAXIMUM 9 ROD LIMIT FOR TOURNAMENT FISHING.**

IDENTIFICATION –

Each contestant will be furnished with a boat identification number. You must make sure your boat number is on your log sheet at the weigh-in. You need to return the number at final weigh-in. The boat number shall be prominently shown on the starboard side of the participant's boat at all times.

2019 MUSKEGON SHODOWN TOURNAMENT RULES

DISABLED BOATS –

Boats must return through the pier heads under their own power. No boat may come in direct physical contact with another boat unless authorized by Tournament Control. Physical contact will result in disqualification for both teams. Obviously boats in distress, dangerous or life-threatening situations must be dealt with accordingly. Disabled boats that arrive late will not be able to weigh in for that day only. Once the tournament begins you cannot change boats for any reason.

NO WAKE INSIDE PIER HEADS

No vessel may create a wake inside of the Muskegon Pier Heads, This includes both outer and inner pier heads. If the tournament control pier boat observes any tournament boat making wake inside the pier heads, that boat will be disqualified.

BOAT CHECK IN

Upon entering the outer Muskegon Pier Heads, All vessels must announce their tournament identification number followed by the words "checking in" over the radio. Tournament control will acknowledge your check in. If you do not receive a conformation after 3 consecutive tries, you must text or call the tournament director at 616-607-6326 to inform of your check in.

CHEATING –

Cheating will not be tolerated. All cases will be directed to the rules committee who will be enforcing all tournament rules.

PROTESTS –

Any and all protests must be made in writing to tournament control within two (2) hours after posted tournament fishing ends on the day of the alleged infraction. Each protest must be accompanied by \$100.00 in cash. If the protest is upheld, the protestor will be returned their \$100.00 however if the protest is not upheld the tournament will keep the \$100.00. The Tournament Committee's decision shall be final and binding.

PRO TEAMS DEFINED –

For the purposes of this tournament, a "Pro Team" is defined as any of the following:

1) Any crewmember that is, or has been within past 2 years, a licensed Great Lakes charter captain, or 2) Any crewmember that is the owner/operator of a business that manufactures a Great Lakes related fishing product

For the purposes of this tournament, the following will **NOT** be considered a "Pro Team":

1) Any crewmember that is a licensed "river-only" guide/captain, 2) Any crewmember that is an employee of a tackle manufacturer or retailer, 3) Field testers, and 4) Retailers.

Amateur teams who win the Muskegon SHOdown two (2) years in a row will be required to fish in the Pro Division the following year.

If you have questions about your Pro-Am status call Jeff Hedges (616) 607-6326 for clarification before you register. Failure to fully disclose all pertinent information may result in disqualification with absolutely NO refund and NO prizes awarded. **It is your responsibility to comply with the Pro/Am Rule.**

OBSERVERS –

Pro boats must provide their own observer to be placed on another boat. Observers must be present at the captains meeting Thursday night. Please remember you are a guest, you have a very important job to do. Carry out your duties as unobtrusively as possible. You will have 2 hours only after fishing time ends to file your protest to Tournament Control. Top three AM boats on day two will have an observer provided by the tournament committee.

Vessels –

Pro vessels: must be 24 feet in length with a functioning head AM vessels: minimum of 18 feet in length